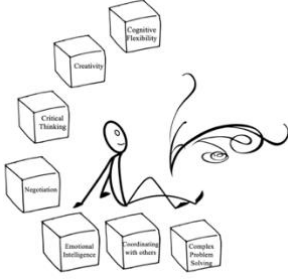


# Scaffolding Halloween (Pre-School)

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We're going to address Number Sense.

*Number sense* in a Halloween activity?

Yup. It will make sense right away...

Students don't develop *number sense* by accident or even as a side effect of engaging in informal activities such as puzzles or songs - even those that, on the surface appear to be related to math.

Experts insist that although every child can learn *number sense*, not every child will unless they intentionally and systematically participate in activities that promote the skill. So...what *is* number sense?

Children with strong number sense think flexibly and fluently about numbers. They can:

- **Visualize and talk comfortably about numbers.** Number bonds are one tool to help them see the connections between numbers.
- **Take numbers apart and put them back together in different ways** — e.g. breaking the number five down several times (such as:  $5+0=5$ ;  $4+1=5$ ;  $3+2=5$ ;  $2+3=5$ ;  $1+4=5$ ;  $0+5=5$  and so on), which helps your children learn all the ways to make five.
- **Compute mentally** — solving problems in their heads instead of using a paper and pencil.
- **Relate numbers to real-life problems by connecting them to their everyday world.** For instance, asking how many apples they've picked at a farm. ("Andy picked 5 apples. Amanda picked 2. How many apples did they pick in all?")

*Number sense* is so important for your young math learners because it promotes confidence and encourages flexible thinking. It allows your students to create a relationship with numbers and be able to talk about math as a language.

This scaffold gives students the opportunity to develop *number sense* through a [Halloween song](#). We begin with the images from the video with numbers printed on small pieces of paper and then they match the numbers to the pumpkins talking.

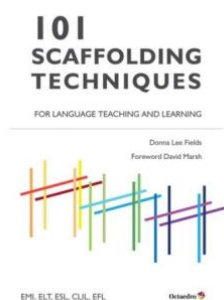
We promote creativity by letting them anthropomorphise the pumpkins, giving each a name.

Afterwards, you play the video/song and they'll be more involved in the what's going on.

See how much fun you can have with your pumpkin friends!!!

**Step by step:**

1. Print out one set of images of the video. (See [template](#)).
2. Students match the numbers to the pumpkin that is talking in the image.
3. They name each pumpkin and write the name underneath each one.
4. Play the song so that they connect ordinal numbers ('first', 'second', 'third'...) with cardinal (1, 2, 3...)
5. Go over the words with them and then play the video again.
6. Students can vote on the names they like the best.



\*Find out more about *number sense* at this [site](#).